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a frame value storing unit for storing said frame feature value corresponding to said image data, the frame value storing unit being connected to said frame feature value generating unit.

2. (Amended) The image retrieval information storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an index information generating unit for determining a feature frame among said image data and for generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame; and

an index information storing unit for storing said index information, the index information storing unit being connected to said index information generating unit.

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15. (Amended) An image retrieving apparatus, comprising:

an index information generating unit for receiving a frame feature value which is a numerical representation of a frame feature corresponding to a frame of image data, for determining a featured frame among said image data based on said frame feature value in accordance with a request for extracting a featured frame, and for generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame; and

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a first image retrieval executing unit connected to said index information generating unit, for transmitting said request for extracting a featured frame to said index information generating unit, for receiving said index information from said index information generating unit, for receiving said image data from outside, and for outputting a frame specified based on said index information.

16. (Amended) The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said first image retrieval executing unit includes a second image retrieval executing unit connected to said index information generating unit, the second image retrieval executing unit transmitting said request for extracting a featured frame to said index information generating unit, receiving said index information from said index information generating unit, receiving said image data

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and index information from outside, and outputting a frame specified based on said index information received from said index information generating unit and from outside.

Please add the following claims:

--27. The image retrieval information storing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a coding information reading unit for reading prescribed coding information which is the base for extracting frame feature from said image data which is coded; and

said frame feature value generating unit generates said frame feature value based on said coding information.

28. The image retrieval information storing apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:

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an index information generating unit for determining a featured frame among said image data, and for generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame; and

an index information storing unit connected to said index information generating unit for storing said index information.

Sub C4 29. An image retrieval information storing apparatus, comprising:

a coding information reading unit for reading motion vector information from coded image data;

a frame feature value generating unit, connected to said coding information reading unit, for calculating statistics of motion vectors of said coded image data based on said motion vector information, and for generating a motion vector frame feature value which is a numerical representation of frame feature; and

a frame feature value storing unit, connected to said frame feature value generating unit, for storing said motion vector frame feature value corresponding to said coded image data.

30. The image retrieval information storing apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

an index information generating unit for determining a featured frame among said coded image data, and for generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame; and

an index information storing unit, connected to said index information generating unit, for storing said index information.

Sub C 31. An image retrieval information storing apparatus comprising:

a coding information reading unit for reading prediction mode information from coded image data;

a frame feature value generating unit, connected to said coding information reading unit, for counting a number of blocks coded in accordance with respective prediction methods for a frame, and for outputting a prediction mode frame feature value which is a numerical representation of frame feature; and

a frame feature value storing unit, connected to said frame feature value generating unit, for storing said prediction mode frame feature value corresponding to said coded image data.

32. The image retrieval information storing apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising:

an index information generating unit for determining a featured frame among said coded image data, and for generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame; and

an index information storing unit, connected to said index information generating unit, for storing said index information.

Sub B33 33. An image retrieval information managing apparatus, comprising:

a frame feature value reading unit for reading one or more frame feature values which are numerical representations of frame feature corresponding to one or more frames of image data and which are included in an image retrieval information; and

a frame feature value managing unit, connected to said frame feature value reading unit, for managing said frame feature values in form which can be used for image retrieval.

34. The image retrieval information managing apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising:

an index information reading unit for reading one or more index information which are positional information of one or more featured frames representing said image data and which are included in said image retrieval information; and

an index information managing unit, connected to said index information reading unit, for managing said index information in a form that can be used for image retrieval.

35. An image retrieval information managing apparatus comprising:

a frame feature value reading unit for reading one or more frame feature values which include motion vector frame feature values, based on statistics of motion vectors of image data and which are included in an image retrieval information; and

a frame feature value managing unit, connected to said frame feature value reading unit, for managing said frame feature values in a form that can be used for image retrieval.

36. The image retrieval information managing apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising:

an index information reading unit for reading one or more index information which are positional information of one or more featured frames representing said image data and which are included in said image retrieval information; and

an index information managing unit, connected to said index information reading unit, for managing said index information in a form that can be used for image retrieval. \leftrightarrow